



City Administrator's Report

March 2009

Dear Reader,

Each month, this report from the City Administrator's Office provides a brief summary and update of major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Feel free to send me your comments and suggestions.

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Key Meetings

City Council Meetings

Tuesday, March 24th. City Hall Council Chambers, 735 Anacapa Street, 2 p.m.

Holidays

Cesar Chavez Day

Tuesday, March 31st. City Offices Closed.

Community Events

Women's Literary Festival

Saturday, March 28th, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Fess Parker's Double Tree Resort. Celebrate diversity, literacy, and social justice through the work of contemporary female authors.

Flags on State Street

Santa Barbara Symphony

March 9th to 20th

American Red Cross

March 20th to 31st

Child Abuse Listening and Mediation

March 31st to April 10th

Budget

City Continues to Address Budget Shortfall. The City of Santa Barbara is facing an estimated \$9.5 million funding shortfall in the Fiscal Year 2010 General Fund budget, approximately 8% of the City's General Fund. This shortfall is primarily due to declining revenues impacted by the national economic crisis. City departments are working with the City Administrator to balance the budget with a combination of the following measures: 1)

department budget adjustments; 2) increases in various fees and charges; 3) citywide labor measures such as a mandatory furlough; 4) structural budget changes; and 5) delays to capital improvements. The City is working closely with the employee bargaining groups to negotiate savings on personnel costs. Supervisors and managers have agreed to a mandatory furlough or unpaid leave of 12 days. Negotiations are continuing with the largest employee bargaining group, SEIU, for a similar furlough or benefit adjustments. City departments are currently finalizing their proposed budgets for the upcoming fiscal year. The City's Fiscal Year 2010 Recommended Budget is tentatively scheduled for presentation to Council on April 21, 2009, marking the beginning of Council and public review. Budget review meetings will be held with the City Council through June, culminating in the Council's adoption of the budget by June 30th.

City Administrator's Office

State of the City. Mayor Marty Blum will address the business community in the annual State of the City Address on Monday, March 23rd at Fess Parker's Double Tree Resort at 7:30 a.m. The event is hosted by the Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Blum will talk about a range of significant City issues including economic development, community infrastructure, public safety, and community planning. City Administrator Jim Armstrong will also make a presentation on the City's financial condition.

Inside Santa Barbara on City TV. *Inside Santa Barbara* is City TV Channel 18's award-winning news magazine show. In this month's episode, viewers learn about the City's partnership with New Beginnings for the RV Safe Parking Program, the launch of the Green Business Program, creek water quality, the Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project, and in our continuing series about highlighting City Advisory Groups, the Creeks Advisory Committee. *Inside Santa Barbara* airs on Mondays at 8 p.m., Tuesdays at 5 p.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., Saturdays at 9 p.m., and Sundays at 10 p.m. You can also watch *Inside Santa Barbara* on-line by visiting the City's website at: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

Administrative Services Department

Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) Annual Filing. Annual Form 700s are due on Wednesday, April 1st, 2009 for members of City Advisory Groups. The City Clerk's Office appreciates early submittals, so please do not hesitate to turn in your Form 700 before the deadline. Any non-technical questions can be directed to the City Clerk's Office at 564-5309. For technical assistance regarding your filing duties, please contact the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) at (866) 275-3772. Additional information related to the Conflict of Interest Code can be found by visiting the FPPC's website at: www.fppc.ca.gov.

Airport Department

Passenger Traffic Decline for January. Airline passenger traffic at Santa Barbara Airport decreased in January 2009 as compared to January 2008. This January, the Airport served 56,364 passengers, a decrease of 9.1% when compared to the January 2008 passenger traffic

Airline Terminal Gift Shop Relocates. Santa Barbara News and Gifts, the only retail shop at the Airline Terminal, has recently relocated from the area at Gates 8 and 9 to its former location at Gate 7. The space at Gate 7 is considerably larger so the shop will be able to increase their inventory and serve the traveling public with a greater selection of publications, sundries, and gift items. The shop relocation allows for a wall to be removed and increase the size of Gates 8 and 9 hold room to accommodate more passengers, especially during peak travel times.

Planning Commission Update. In March, the Planning Commission will meet on March 19th. Some of the highlights include:

Finance Department

February Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) down 20.8%. After a modest 1.8% decline in January, February TOT was down 20.8% from the prior February. February's decline was the sixth consecutive monthly year-over-year decline in TOT. After eight months of the fiscal year, this important revenue source is down by 2.4%. Staff now expects to end the fiscal year down at least 3% from last year's total or approximately \$650,000 below the TOT budget.

TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAXES								
Month	FY 2006	Change from Prior Year	FY 2007	Change from Prior Year	FY 2008	Change from Prior Year	FY 2009	Change from Prior Year
July	\$ 1,477,789	13.5%	\$ 1,556,439	5.3%	\$ 1,613,163	3.6%	\$ 1,631,965	1.2%
Aug	1,504,589	10.8%	1,591,998	5.8%	1,645,684	3.4%	1,820,811	10.6%
Sept	1,109,428	19.1%	1,196,533	7.9%	1,218,695	1.9%	1,196,294	-1.8%
Oct	963,261	5.3%	1,051,043	9.1%	1,075,341	2.3%	1,049,515	-2.4%
Nov	809,684	12.1%	887,047	9.6%	870,754	-1.8%	770,009	-11.6%
Dec	671,965	16.8%	669,540	-0.4%	669,133	-0.1%	599,323	-10.4%
Jan	661,507	9.1%	677,428	2.4%	691,651	2.1%	679,202	-1.8%
Feb	738,532	5.6%	758,041	2.6%	811,319	7.0%	642,297	-20.8%
Mar	855,597	-1.9%	953,927	11.5%	1,000,573	4.9%		
April	1,000,696	6.3%	1,046,772	4.6%	958,282	-8.5%		
May	1,015,349	1.4%	1,052,582	3.7%	1,118,049	6.2%		
June	1,223,974	5.7%	1,249,817	2.1%	1,262,909	1.0%		
FY Total	\$ 12,032,372	8.6%	\$ 12,691,167	5.5%	\$ 12,935,553	1.9%	8,389,417	-2.4%
Budget	\$ 11,504,200		\$ 12,630,600		\$ 13,581,500		\$ 13,334,000	3.1%
Includes only the 10% unrestricted TOT revenues. Beginning in January 2001, an additional 2% is credited to Creeks/Clean Water (Measure B).								

Fire Department

Fire Sprinkler Ordinance. The Fire Department is working on an update to the fire sprinkler ordinance. The new requirements will include a residential sprinkler provision as well as more stringent requirements for commercial additions and remodels. The Fire Prevention Bureau has hosted two public stakeholder meetings and presented the proposed changes to the Police and Fire Commission. Through public outreach, many helpful contributions have been received from stakeholders in the development community and local government. Changes were made based on some of those comments, resulting in a draft ordinance that better reflects the needs of the community. A presentation to the City Council Ordinance Committee is planned for March 24th.

Library Department

Cops 'n' Kids. Two of Santa Barbara's finest were special guests at the Eastside Library for story time on February 18th. Seventy-six preschool aged children participated. Officer Klacking read a book to the children and Officer Gutierrez handed out "police badge" stickers. The teachers gave enthusiastic feedback about what a "positive impact" the event had on the children, and the children enjoyed visiting with the police officers.

Eastside Parent/Child Art. The Eastside Library and the Community Arts Program of the Santa Barbara Museum of Art hosted the first in a series of art classes for parents and children. All workshops include art projects with a theme taken from a popular children's book. Children and parents of all ages are welcome to participate.

Santa Barbara Reads. In partnership with UCSB, a series of three films were shown at the Central Library as part of the community reading program, *Ethics for the New Millennium*, by the Dalai Lama. Well over one hundred people attended the last screening, a film by Rick Ray, entitled *10 Questions for the Dalai Lama*. Community conversations with professors, religious professionals, Mayor Marty Blum and others began February 25th in the public libraries and will continue until March 19th.

Literary Festival. The Santa Barbara Public Library System is co-sponsoring the annual Women's Literary Festival on Saturday, March 28th from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Fess Parker's Double Tree Resort. The mission of the Women's Literary Festival is to present the work of contemporary female authors from a variety of backgrounds and life experiences at a yearly conference. The Festival will celebrate diversity, literacy and social justice.

Parks and Recreation

Arbor Day. On March 3rd, the City Council proclaimed March 7, 2009 as Arbor Day. The City has been designated a "Tree City USA" for 29 years by the National Arbor Day Foundation. Over the past 43 years, the City has planted over 11,000 street trees, further contributing to the City's urban forest of approximately 50,000 public open space, park, and street trees. This Spring marks 107 years of celebrating City parks. Arbor Day observances were held at seven local grade school campuses.

Spring Break Camps Open for Registration. The City is offering a variety of different youth camps and sports clinics during the one-week Santa Barbara School District Spring Break from March 30th to April 3rd. The Great Escape Camp for grades 1-6 is a full-day, multi-activity camp based at McKinley School. Half-day camps include Skate Clinic, Cheer Skills and Dance Thrills, Archery, Kidz Love Soccer, Volleypop Volleyball, Doggone Fun, Art from the Heart, Ceramics and Ballet. To register online, visit the website at: www.sbparksandrecreation.com. For more information, call 564-5418

Spring and Summer Activity Guide. The new *Parks and Recreation Activity Guide* will be available at all Parks and Recreation office locations and online beginning March 10th. In addition, the guide is delivered to all City residents and selected Goleta residents. This guide is particularly popular as it features the many summer camps and sports clinics offered by the department throughout the summer. Ten new camps have been added to this year's offerings for youth ages 4 through 17. Registration for all summer camps and clinics begin March 10th with the exception of Junior Lifeguards. Registration for the popular Junior Lifeguard program is Saturday, April 11th from 8 to 9:30 a.m. either online using eRecreation or in person at the Cabrillo Pavilion Bathhouse. For more information, call 564-5418.

Mural Dedication Ceremony honors work of Santa Barbara Art Alliance Youth. The Santa Barbara Arts Alliance, a program of the Parks and Recreation Department, and the Franklin Neighborhood Center Advisory Committee, invite the public to attend a mural dedication ceremony on Friday, March 27th at 3:30 p.m. at the Eastside Park/Yanonali Community Garden (Yanonali and Soledad Streets). Youth programs participants will be dedicating one of four recently completed murals, "Los Sembradores," dedicated to those who plant. A total of 22 youth and young adults between the ages of 14 through 21 took part in a four-month art program through the Santa Barbara Arts Alliance that included hands-on workshops in mural painting, digital arts, photography, and silk-screening, as well as participation in neighborhood clean-ups. For more information please contact Ricardo Venegas at 963-7605.

Twelve35 Teen Center Celebrates its Two-Year Anniversary. Local teens won't want to miss any Anniversary Week activities at the Twelve35 Teen Center from March 16th through 21st. Monday's PreParty is hosted by the Santa Barbara Youth Council and ADAP Teen Coalition at 4 p.m. A cake cutting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17th at 5 p.m. with the doors opening at 3 p.m. for a tour of the center, free food, and free memberships. Wednesday, March 18th is Ladies Night and all gals are invited to check out the new Ladies Lounge. Thursday, March 19th is a "Friends and Family = Fun and Games" evening beginning at 6 p.m. Friday night is for high schoolers only with live DJs and dancing from 8 p.m. to midnight. On Saturday, the center will offer ice cream sundaes, a girl's spa day, and free memberships. For more information, call the center at 882-1235.

Douglas Family Preserve Community Planting Day. The Parks Division and the Friends of the Douglas Family Preserve hosted a community planting day on February 28th. The 70-acre Douglas Family Preserve has a variety of native habitats that include coastal sage scrub, coastal bluff scrub, oak woodland, and riparian and estuarine habitats. Sixty volunteers assisted with site restoration and installation of 900 native coastal sage and grassland species, including a monarch butterfly habitat. The Friends of the Douglas Family Preserve raised funds in collaboration with the Southern California Artists Painting for the Environment (SCAPE) and the Parks and Recreation Community (PARC) Foundation.

Police Department

Six Arrested for Murder. On February 22nd, at approximately 6:52 a.m., a resident of the 400 block of De la Vina Street called Police to report a person lying on the ground and unresponsive. Police and medical personnel responded. Medics pronounced the person dead on the scene from multiple stab wounds to his upper torso. The 22-year old victim was identified as Baldemar Leal. Officers and detectives canvassed the neighborhood and located a witness. The witness told detectives that he had witnessed four individuals assaulting a person on the previous night at approximately 9:30 p.m.

Detectives developed more leads and as the investigation unfolded it appeared that the assault had been preplanned by the suspects. Several search and arrest warrants were served in different locations within Santa Barbara. As a result of the investigation, the following individuals were arrested for murder and conspiracy to commit murder: 30-year old Michele Murillo Flores, 30-year old Imelda Nava Guevara, 18-year old Lilliana Arriaga, 35-year old Andrew Balderaz, 20-year old Jonathon Alonzo, and 21-year old David Anthony Martinez.

Infant Abduction. On February 27th at approximately 12:49 p.m., Police received a call from Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital Security about an infant abduction. They described the suspect as a middle-aged Hispanic woman with long, dark, curly hair wearing pink hospital scrubs. Within minutes officers arrived at the hospital and set up a perimeter. Officers were informed that the hospital had already been placed in lock-down by Cottage Hospital staff. Officers began to interview witnesses and reviewed security tape footage. The infant was described as a five-hour old baby boy named Julian, weighing seven pounds and measuring 20 inches long. An Amber Alert was initiated at approximately 1:08 p.m.

Detectives were able to identify the suspect as 33-year old Leianna Patricia Arzate. Detectives determined that Arzate was associated with an address in Santa Maria. With the assistance of the Santa Maria Police Department, Arzate was located at a home on the 800 block of East Boone Street at approximately 3:30 p.m. and taken into custody. Baby Julian was also located at the home and was reunited with his parents. Arzate was booked into Santa Barbara County Jail for kidnapping charges.

Police Activities League Programs for 2009-2010. The Police Department Police Activities League (PAL) remains committed to the youth of our community and will be offering the following programs:

- January 1st to March 27th: Junior High after school programs to include girl's basketball, boy's soccer, and martial arts;
- January to September: Youth Leadership Program;
- February to May: Club basketball;
- February to April: Art Classes; Digital Video Editing Classes
- March: Explorer Program;
- April to September: Club Soccer;
- May 15th: PAL Fundraiser;
- May to September: Campership Alliance;

- June: Cops and Kids Camp; and
- September to January 2010: Junior High after school programs to include girl's basketball, boys soccer, and martial arts.

For further information on these programs, call the PAL Office at 962-5560.

Public Works Department

Garden-Laguna Street Solar Project Dedication Ceremony. The City, in partnership with Suntech Power Holdings Co., Ltd., the world's largest manufacturer of photovoltaic (PV) modules, and Tioga Energy, a leading solar financing firm, held a dedication ceremony for the Garden-Laguna Street Solar Project on Wednesday, March 11th. Speakers of the program included local Nobel Prize Laureate and sustainability advocate Walter Kohn and Mayor Marty Blum, who dedicated the City's Corporate Yard solar system. The ceremony also included an educational tour of the solar facilities, which features Suntech modules designed to minimize aesthetic impact while providing maximum energy output. The system is financed and operated by Tioga Energy, through its SurePath™ Solar Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). Through the SurePath PPA agreement, Tioga Energy sells the energy generated by the system to the City at a fixed, predictable price over the 20-year contract term. As a result, the City receives immediate energy savings and a hedge against future utility rate increases, without the hassle of owning the system outright.

Annual Water Main Flushing Program Begins. Water Distribution Crews began their annual Flushing Program on March 2nd, and it will run through mid-May. In accordance with State regulations, the Flushing Program systematically exercises each of the City's fire hydrants for a short period of time to flush out the water mains. This maintenance program helps to ensure both water quality and the performance of our fire hydrants. The Flushing Program is conducted at night, from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. when water demands are low. For questions or concerns about this program, contact Jose Marquez at 564-5409.

City Crews Successfully Repair Main Wastewater Line. When a contractor working on the new Fess Parker hotel construction project hit an 18-foot deep 24-inch wastewater main, the collection system crews had a big project to fix. City crews worked through the night and the next day to repair the broken main line that conveys wastewater from a portion of the Eastside of the City to the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant. The fix required fabrication of specialized connections to allow the new pipe to be joined to the old. The job was complicated not only by the depth of the pipe, but by the fact that the pipe is below the water table, so the crews had to contain and pump the wastewater and dewater the excavation. The main was repaired without any wastewater spilling from the repair site.

It Pays to Be Smart About Landscaping. The City Water Conservation Program has joined with the Goleta Water District in offering rebates toward the cost of irrigation materials, water-wise plants and mulch through its Smart Landscape Rebate Program. After a landscaping project qualifies, whether it's commercial or residential, it may become eligible for a rebate of as much as \$1,000. The program covers up to half the cost of the efficient sprinklers, plants and mulch, and smart irrigation controllers. The city already offers free irrigation checkups and rain sensors. To find out more visit the website at: www.sbwater.org.

Fix a Leak Week March 16th to 20th. The City Water Conservation Program will be part of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) WaterSense campaign, *Fix A Leak Week* from March 16th through 20th. This will be the first "Fix a Leak Week" effort to remind residents to check household plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems for leaks. WaterSense and the City Water Conservation Program will promote ways to identify and repair dripping faucets, running toilets, and leaky showerheads. In most cases, fixture replacement parts can be installed by do-it-yourselfers and pay for themselves in no time. The City as well as water purveyors throughout Santa Barbara County already offer giveaways such as water-saving showerheads, rebates for water-efficient fixtures and free water checkups. For more info on the City Water Conservation Program, visit www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

West Mission Bike Lane Nears Completion. Construction for the Mission Street Bike Lane Project began in April 2008 and its anticipated completion is the second week of March 2009. This project improves the overall safety of the area by enhancing bicycle and pedestrian facilities on Mission Street under Highway 101. New bike lanes were built on the east and westbound sides of West Mission Street, between the 400 and 600 blocks. Pedestrian areas were enhanced with new sidewalks, street lighting, traffic signal modification, curb and gutters, and retaining walls. New and additional landscaping improved visibility and area aesthetics. This project completes the Pacific Coast Bike Route through Santa Barbara, by adding bike lanes between Castillo Street and Modoc Road. The traffic signals have been modified to detect bicycles, as well as cars, giving cyclists the same privileges as drivers.

Making the Final Connection: Carrillo Hill Construction. Construction was completed for the Carrillo Hill Sidewalk Improvement Project in June 2008. Significant public improvements included a new sidewalk, access ramps, curbs and gutters, retaining walls, and beautiful landscaping on the north side of Carrillo Street between Miramonte Drive and La Coronilla Drive. The next segment of the pedestrian link, named the Carrillo Sidewalk Infill Project, includes connecting the sidewalks on the north side of Carrillo Street between Miramonte Drive and Chino Street and south of Island View Drive. This construction is scheduled to begin in March 2009 and will last approximately three months.

The completion of this Sidewalk Improvement Project provides a contiguous link from the Mesa to Downtown on the north side of Carrillo Street, fulfilling the City's goals to increase pedestrian travel, improve pedestrian safety, and encourage public transit use by providing better access to bus stops.

Waterfront Department

Honor Fee Parking System expanded to Chase Palm Park. The Waterfront Department now operates five Honor Fee parking lots which include Harbor West lot, Garden Street lot, Cabrillo East and Cabrillo West lots, and most recently, Chase Palm Park lot. On January 1, 2009, an honor fee collection system began operating in the lot on weekdays. The lot will continue to be staffed on weekends during the off-season and seven days per week during the peak season. Parking fees are currently \$2 for three hours while the lot is on honor fee operation and \$1.50 per hour when the kiosk is staffed.

Expansion of NBCC Safe Parking Program in Garden Street Lot. Since April 2007, New Beginnings Counseling Center (NBCC) has operated an overnight Recreational Vehicle (RV) Parking Program as part of its homeless outreach program. RV owners in the Safe Parking Project may use the Carrillo/Castillo and Cota Street commuter lots which are both managed by Downtown Parking, and Garden Street lot operated by Waterfront. Like other lots in the NBCC's program, the Garden Street lot will increase RV overnight parking from three spaces to five spaces for enrolled RV dwellers: this lot restricts participants to families. To date, no complaints about the program have been received by Waterfront staff and no costs have been incurred related to the program. During the day while the lot is open for business, the vehicles are required to leave.

Emergency Generator. In March, a new emergency generator will be able to power the Stearns Wharf passenger loading ramp (PLR). The generator will provide electricity to the PLR, roadway lights, and compressors that run the lift stations during a prolonged power outage. Funding of the sewer PLR emergency generator was paid from the Waterfront Department's capital budget.